

Louisburg – USD 416
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Professional Insights

for Educators

“Learning is a treasure that follows its owner everywhere.”
 Chinese Proverb

Superintendent’s Message

Budget Information

The budget in our school district is comprised of many components. As I visited each building over the past few weeks we focused on the **General Fund** and **Local Option Budget (LOB)**. These are the two funds where we charge all of our operating expenditures. This would include salaries, utilities, supplies and other items used to run our programs and keep our buildings in shape. There are a few other funds that we utilize in the district. Let’s take a brief look at those funds.

Capital Outlay is a fund that is financed through a local mill levy. We use this fund for purchasing equipment and making major repairs. We have the authority to carry over a balance in this fund and as of July 1, 2009 that balance was \$1.9 million. This is critical to have on hand so that we can take care of emergencies that may arise. An example would be the loss of a boiler or a major roof repair due to storm damage. We are fortunate to have a healthy balance here as we may have to use some of these dollars to offset maintenance salaries. A few years ago school districts were given limited ability to use these funds in this manner. It is NOT the best use of the funds but if we are forced to go that route we can. There is a statute for state aid in this fund but due to the economic crisis that is not being paid to any school district at this time.

Our **Bond and Interest** fund is used to pay off the debt on our loans for facilities. This money CANNOT be used for any other purpose. It is funded through a local levy and subsidized with state aid. We must have a balance on hand in this fund as our payments come due before we receive tax revenue. It would be most detrimental to our district if we were not able to make our bond and interest payments each year.

Special Assessments is another local tax that we collect to pay for our district’s share of road improvements, water and sewer district charges as they relate to our buildings. This is not unlike an assessment for homeowners when the roads are improved in front of your house. We are in a 10 year benefit district in order to keep the payments down. However, that also requires us to pay some interest each year also. This fund is not subsidized by the state.

These are the funds we use in Louisburg that require a local tax levy.

As of this writing we are reviewing how we can accommodate the \$430,000 cut we received from the Governor November 23rd. This money must come from our general operating fund. At this time, I believe we will be able to achieve this without any loss of jobs for the remainder of the year. Please watch your email for further updates. Your

building administrators will be seeking out ways to save money in the district. Please put your best thinking caps on and send your thoughts to them. When we hear one idea it often sparks another. This crisis will not be pleasant but if we work together we will get through it.

Sincerely, Sharon

Test Security

A federal audit by the U.S. Department of Education this summer of test security for Kansas assessments through the Kansas State Department of Education will cause some more stringent practices during the spring 2010 testing window. Any staff member involved in the testing process must receive official training. Administrators were trained during the Fall Assessment Conference and presented that information to all affected staff during the December 2nd joint inservice held in the LMS auditorium from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. This training is required by staff dealing with grades 3-12, including para/aides, counselors, KIDS building contacts, proctors, social worker, teachers and anyone involved with administering or proctoring the Kansas assessments. Training covered room/lab preparation, cautions in seating charts & processes during testing, permissible materials, expectations during and after the test, and ethics.

A few of the major changes required by the U.S. DOE are:

- All staff must be “trained” and sign off (documentation required for state monitors).
- Documentation must be completed on ALL students receiving any accommodation.
- Read aloud scripts may not leave the building and cannot be given to the reader more than 24 hours prior to testing.
- The distribution of test tickets and reactivation can only be done by the district test coordinator.
- Building principals will provide test tickets prior to the testing session.
- Tickets and scratch paper will be collected after each testing session.
- Pam must submit test schedules online to KSDE prior to the testing window. These schedules include specific dates, testing times, teachers, room location, grade and content assessed.
- Seating charts must be available onsite to unannounced “monitors”.
- Students need to know they may see a “visitor” during testing.

During the 2010 testing window, all Kansas assessments will be conducted using the KCA (Kansas Computerized

Our goal in Louisburg USD 416 is to teach every child - allow each child to progress to the limit of his or her capabilities. We will provide a wide range of programs and methodology to allow for individual differences, while educating the whole child.

Assessment). Paper & pencil testing is considered an individual accommodation and may not be requested for entire classes or groups of students.

Good questions were raised. Pam will be checking with KSDE to clarify whether manipulatives and graphic organizers constitute an accommodation, and if white boards are permissible.

TOTS

Future TOTS dates should you wish to mark them on your calendar will be:

- Monday @ BES with Stacie (12/14,1/11,2/19,3/22)
- Tuesday @ LMS with Richard (12/15,1/12,2/16,3/23)
- Wednesday @ RES with Stacie(12/16,1/13,2/17,3/24)
- Thursday @ LHS with Richard (12/17,1/14,2/18,3/25)

Annual PDC Training

Building PDC representatives met Tuesday afternoon on December 1, 2009 for annual training and review of recurring issues. New members were Chris McLean and Brian Boeve.

Sometime in September, Greenbush added a new feature to individual PDPToolbox accounts: the countdown of days until current teaching license expires. Should you discover that the details in your account are incorrect, you can click on *My Preferences* and slide down the page to *TEACHING LICENSE* and enter the correct date.

Other Lessons Learned:

- Staff meetings or other professional responsibilities for which salary is earned are not permitted. Becky reported that KSDE has called her on questionable items encountered when our staff members have submitted their PDC transcript for renewal purposes. Further details are located in the *PDC Multi-Year Plan_2008* located on the district drive inside the PDC folder.
- New "Leave" Request must be completed prior to taking college classes. This is critical should teachers wish to be reimbursed for college hours or wish to use college courses to move across the salary schedule.
- Teachers are encouraged to tag any past training activities that they have utilized in the classroom for **application** points (double points). Simply locate the training, double-click on the training link and complete the blanks – then submit.

Should you have questions about this and other issues, you are encouraged to visit with your building PDC reps:

- RES: Sherri Chase and Alicia Vance
- BES: Krista Wilson and Jerry Myers
- LMS: Becky Morgan and Rochelle Peters
- LHS: Brian Burns and Jim Dillon

CSHP Grant Awarded

Kansas Coordinated School Health has announced the schools and school districts that have been awarded grants for health and wellness programs for the 2009-2010 school year. USD 416 has been selected as a grant recipient.



Kansas Coordinated School Health works to bring school personnel, parents, community members and community resources together to address policies and programs that focus on nutrition, physical activity, tobacco prevention and other topics that impact the health and wellness of all children. The grant program is designed to assist schools and school districts in making progress toward exemplary wellness policies.

"Healthy children make better students, and better students make healthy communities," is the mission of KCSH according to the program directors, Dr. Mark Thompson of the Kansas State Department of Education and Jane Shirley of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "We hope the funding will assist schools to develop a culture that supports students in adopting lifelong healthy behaviors. Schools can be a valuable link in communities by bringing many resources together for success." More information about Kansas Coordinated School Health can be found at their website, www.kshealthykids.org

Louisburg plans to use the grant funds to expand the physical education program for students at LMS to promote customized personal activity goals. Kyle Littrell will be implementing a new curriculum utilizing Ultimate Suunto/Heart Zone Heart Rate Training which incorporates chest straps and transmitters. The program will feature anonymous readings projected on the wall targeting each student's activity levels. You can contact Pam Best, the grant coordinator if you have further questions.

Staff Local Wellness Workshop

Louisburg will once again sponsor its staff local wellness workshop on January 18, 2010.

Activities include keynote speaker, cardiologist Dr. Malgalski whom our nurse, Lisa Wisniewski and PE teacher, Aaron Webb were instrumental in arranging as a result of an unfortunate incident earlier this year with a Broadmoor student.

Following Dr. Malgalski's message, staff members will have an opportunity to select three rotations from such options as:

- Stress & relaxation techniques (holiday or economy induced)
- Olathe Medical Center screenings (blood glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure). Cost \$18 onsite in contrast to \$32 if walked into their clinic. Please contact your principal or nurse if you are interested because we'll need a count to accurately serve interested participants.
- Walking around the mezzanine
- Dieting & Nutrition
- Weight Room
- GeoFitness – dance routines
- Wii activities
- Group Games

If you have other ideas or suggestions, please contact any of the district school health council representatives: Lori Griffin, Lisa Wisniewski, Mary Jo Shelton, Vonda Easley, Aaron Webb, Tom Kuder, Becky Bowes, Kyle Littrell, Debbie

Chipps, Doug Key, Marty Southard, Sandi Roark, Brian
Biermann, Chris McLean and Pam Best.